

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-18 were allowed, and claims 19-22 were rejected. By the present Response, claims 19-22 are cancelled and new claims 23-27 are added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-18 and 23-27 will be pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejection of claims 19-22

The rejection of claims 19-22 has been rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims.

New Claims 23-27

New claims 23-27 have been added simply to recite subject matter similar to that recited in the allowed claims, in a somewhat different form. Although not earlier advanced in the prosecution of the present application, the claims are believed to be clearly allowable for the same reasons as claims 1-18, and Applicants kindly request that the Examiner permit the addition of these claims.

Claim 23 recites elements essentially identical to certain recitations of original claim 1, believed to have rendered that claim allowable over the prior art. In particular, claim 23 recites placing layers of metal on both sides of a plate of ceramic material, cutting the metallized ceramic plate along parallel planes perpendicular to the metal layers to form a multiplicity of bars, and stacking the bars with metal layer facing metal layer. Each pair of contacting metal layers forms a respective electrode. The claim further recites bonding the stacked bars to form a bonded stack. Claim 23 adds no new matter, and clearly does not

The Examiner indicated in the previous Office Action that the prior art does not teach or suggest "claimed method of manufacturing a workpiece, particularly the steps of placing layers of metal on both sides of a plate of ceramic material, cutting the metallized ceramic plate along parallel planes perpendicular to the metal layers to form a multiplicity

of bars, stacking the bars with metal layer facing metal layer, and bonding the stack together". Claim 23 is therefore believed to be clearly allowable.

Claims 24 recites placing layers of metal on both sides of each of a plurality of plates of ceramic material, and stacking the metallized plates with metal layer facing metal layer. Each pair of contacting metal layers forms a respective electrode. The claim further recites bonding the stacked plates to form a bonded stack and cutting the bonded stack along parallel planes perpendicular to the metal layers to form a plurality of bars. Claim 24 includes recitations essentially similar to those of claim 23, except for the plurality of plates of ceramic material. As discussed above, the Examiner indicated earlier that the prior art does not teach or suggest the recited steps of claim 24. Claim 24 is therefore believed to be clearly allowable. Claims 25-27 depend from independent claim 24 and are believed to be equally allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: _____

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Hoffman
Reg. No. 54,174
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545